

INTRODUCTION

This first Report of Canada to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) summarizes our progress, lessons and challenges in achieving the goals of sustainable development. It concentrates on the chapters and themes in Agenda 21 that will be discussed at the 1994 session of the CSD.

In this report, Canada uses the definition of sustainable development offered by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED, also known as the Brundtland Commission): "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Canada recognizes that every individual, major group, and order of government is responsible for integrating the principle of sustainable development into its activities. All have begun to take action. Accordingly, this report draws on examples from the diversity of Canadian responses to Agenda 21 and the many partnerships between groups, governments and individuals. Where those responses involve expenditures, amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars.

This report has been prepared by the Canadian government in accordance with the guidelines proposed by the CSD. It has involved consultation with other orders of government in Canada and with representatives of major groups. The report reflects the diversity of approaches that exist within Canada and describes some of the mechanisms we are building to reach consensus. It also offers a sense of the direction Canadians have taken on sustainable development and some of the results achieved to date.